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Association of Bay Area Governments, San  
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Highlights of 1977 and selected  
summary of accomplishments, 1970-1976.  
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HIGHLIGHTS OF 1977  
AND  
SELECTED SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS  
1970-1976

The Association last year:

- Completed a Draft Environmental Management Plan for curbing the region's air quality, water quality and solid waste management problems. A final plan will be adopted by local governments at ABAG's June 10 General Assembly for submission to the State and Federal governments.
- With a 16-member Industrial Siting Task Force, investigated ways to help industry choose suitable Bay Area locations for development. An industrial site file was developed describing some 400 vacant industrial parcels in the region. The Task Force also started to evaluate ways to streamline the permit process and published the Bay Area Permit Directory for Industrial Development.
- Welcomed Solano County as its newest member government, bringing the total membership to 87 of 93 cities and 8 of 9 counties, the highest ever.
- Updated the Regional Plan 1970-1990 by bringing together all regional policy approved since 1970 in a single document for the first time. A major new feature is the emphasis on sub-regional planning. Conditions, regional issues, and--in some areas--policy positions are described for fifteen subregional areas. The loose-leaf format of the Regional Plan is designed to incorporate plan amendments and changes in subregional positions on an annual basis.
- Completed a draft of the Regional Housing Plan, which revises and adds substantially to the policies and implementing actions outlined in Phase I of the Housing Element approved in August 1975. Also prepared a Directory of Housing Subsidized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, which is designed to help lower-income people seeking affordable housing in the Bay Area, and the Housing Profile 1970-1975, describing the current situation in the region.
- Completed a major Emergency Medical Services project designed to increase the awareness of Bay Area citizens about how to get emergency medical assistance. The EMS project also developed Guidelines for Transfer of Critically Ill Patients (honored by national distribution by HEW), published a Resource Directory for Behavioral Emergencies, and conducted a survey of citizen knowledge of Emergency Services.



- Received an \$87,000 grant from the Kaiser Family Foundation to establish an 18-month Skills Testing Program for all Emergency Medical Technicians graduating from Bay Area training programs, so that uniformly high standards can be maintained in each county.
- Implemented the Bay Area Spatial Information System (BASIS), a computerized geographic data base that can combine different kinds of geographic information. BASIS has so far been used to help locate potential sites for disposal of hazardous waste and major vacant industrial sites. It is intended for use by local jurisdictions as well as for ABAG planning projects.
- Reviewed 1,517 projects totalling \$1,120,248,009 in Federal and other grant requests. This record number of A-95 reviews was eased by the recent automation of the A-95 Review and Notification system.
- Received honors. The San Francisco Bay Area chapter of the American Society for Public Administration presented a 1977 award for achievement in public administration to the Association for its Local Development Policy Survey. The Walter A. Scheiber Regional Leadership Award was presented to Executive Director Revan Tranter by the National Association of Regional Councils to recognize outstanding contributions to intergovernmental cooperation.

## 1976

- Established a computer link with the Federal Domestic Assistance Program Retrieval System, which helps local governments find Federal funds for community programs.
- Formed a 43-member Environmental Management Task Force to prepare a plan to meet Federal clean air and water standards for submittal by the State to the Environmental Protection Agency by June 21, 1978.
- Began with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission its second corridor study--in Santa Clara County. The study is examining transportation and development alternatives for the county and how they would affect highways, transit and related urban development projects for water, jobs and housing in the next few years.
- Reviewed the revised City of Livermore general plan, building on the recommendations of the 1974 action on the proposed Las Positas new town in Alameda County (see also 1975 mention).
- Received a \$1 million grant for emergency medical services, with most of the funds passed through to the counties for completion of a basic life support system. This means that an ambulance can reach a victim within 10 minutes in the urban part of the Bay Area.



- Approved a sharing plan for Federal housing subsidies, now used by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to distribute available funds.
- Received an award for innovative community affairs programs from the San Francisco Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America for its Citizen Alliance Program.

## 1975

- Adopted the Regional Housing Element - Phase I, necessary for bringing HUD community development funds to local governments.
- Refined the Open Space Element--now called the Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. This work strengthens the ability of local governments to make decisions about environmentally sensitive lands.
- Reviewed the proposed Las Positas new town in Alameda County, and concluded that the proposal was premature and in conflict with regional policies on environmental quality, balanced urban development and cooperative government action. The Executive Board also said that developments such as that proposed for Las Positas should occur in central parts of the region with existing--but unused--public service capacities.
- Continued its extensive joint program with MTC, without which the Bay Area could not receive its substantial funds for transportation projects.
- Accepted a \$4.3 million EPA grant for planning under s. 208 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972. The program brought together the separate and often conflicting mandates of single-purpose regional agencies in air, water and solid waste.
- Completed the major portion of a land capability study enabling Bay Area jurisdictions to use geologic publications more effectively. The study developed a method to assess and reduce expected dollar costs of earth science phenomena such as earthquakes, flooding, slope stability and resource depletion.
- Received an award from the Northern Section, California Chapter of the American Institute of Planners for its work on the Regional Ocean Coastline Plan. The award recognized ABAG's "outstanding contribution to planning for a better living environment."

## 1974

- Sponsored major conferences on State planning law, the Williamson Act and ways to provide the region with energy-efficient communities.



- Examined potential sources of financing and acquisition plans for open space. In Financing Open Space, ABAG analyzed frequently-overlooked costs of operation and maintenance of open space lands and prepared a five year financial program.
- Established a major research study in Sonoma County financed by the Environmental Protection Agency to demonstrate ways to link land use with air and water quality planning.
- Broadened its review of development trends with procedures to assess development proposals with a potentially significant impact on the region. The reviews are in addition to ABAG's review under the A-95 circular.
- Established a review process for the Regional Housing Element - Phase I, a major tool in implementing the 1974 Federal legislation. The element calls for a "fair share" system of distributing housing subsidy monies.
- Received the Bay Area Council's Award of Merit, honoring ABAG's role in bringing about "dramatic progress on the part of local elected officials in addressing themselves to regional problems."

## 1973

- Devised a pilot Bay Delta project to use composted organic wastes to restore agricultural levees in the Delta. The project later received support of State Legislature, but was delayed by State and Federal agencies.
- Argued in a three-volume report on implementing open space plans that local cities and counties have more powers to control growth, curb urban sprawl and regulate land than is generally thought.
- Approved the Regional Ocean Coastline Plan, making the Bay Area the first region in California to adopt a coastal plan as part of its comprehensive general plan. The plan was used as a base for planning in Marin, Sonoma and San Francisco Counties by the North Central Coastal Commission. Through ABAG's relationships with both Bay Area coastal commissions, local governments have had a positive impact on coastal planning--unlike some areas of the State where coastal commissions have not enjoyed good relationships with local governments. ABAG's appointments to the two coastal commissions gave inland jurisdictions a major voice in coastal planning.
- Helped set up regional carpool program, called RIDES for Bay Area Commuters, to meet the energy crisis.
- Published the first Estimates of Housing Needs--San Francisco Bay Area 1970. This report represented a pioneering effort to identify households occupying physically substandard or overcrowded housing, or households paying more than 25% of income for rent.



1972

- Completed a report on New Communities in the Bay Area, and recommended that ABAG study and make recommendations on the problems and opportunities of 33 developing communities in the Bay Area.
- Approved a housing planning process and appointed a housing task force to prepare a regional housing element. The element devised was one of the first in the country to contain policies for increasing housing availability for low- and moderate-income persons as later mandated by the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974.
- Adopted an open space element for the boldest open space system planned for any metropolitan area in the world. A target of 3.4 million acres of open space was established.
- Adopted the Regional Airport Systems Plan, making the region the first in California to have an aviation element as part of its regional plan. The plan is being implemented by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and ABAG.

1971

- Produced the Development Regulations and Housing Costs study, which analyzed the impact of local zoning ordinances on housing. The study recommended stronger development regulations, building codes and improved housing elements for local general plans. Improved code enforcement and the creation of professional standards for building code officials and license candidates were also recommended, as was a program of Federal research on innovative building technology.
- Supported five fringe parking demonstration projects, arguing that the use of highway funds for parking in areas served by public transit would reduce auto congestion in downtown areas.
- Asked local, regional, State and Federal agencies to cooperate in the development of the regulations for ship movements in San Francisco Bay. The Regional Organization for Shipping and the Environment prepared a report on requirements for ship safety and vessel traffic regulation following a collision and oil spill in the Bay. A system was later established by Federal law.
- Recommended that the U.S. Coast Guard find the environmental impact report for the Southern Crossing bridge not adequate. Voters later opposed the bridge's construction.





1970

- Completed the Regional Plan 1970-1990, the Bay Area's first comprehensive regional plan. Local government officials overwhelmingly approved the plan's policies for city-centered development in the region. Other goals: protection and enhancement of San Francisco Bay, adequate shelter for the Bay Area's citizens, expanded opportunity for economic well-being, a transportation system that is integrated with land use and consistent with the city-centered concept, a permanent regional open space system, and a sense of regional identity, responsibility and cooperation among citizens, organizations and governments in the Bay Area.
- Produced the Ocean Coastline Study, one of the first detailed studies of its kind in the country. The study pointed out the need for a coastline plan, since 50 percent of the region's coastal land was potentially developable. It recommended that coastal planning and management be carried out on a regional basis.
- Finished the first phase of a Regional Water, Sewerage and Drainage Plan. The plan advocated integrated water supply, wastewater treatment and flood water management.
- Completed the first phase of the two-part Regional Airports System Study. It involved data collection on forecasts of demand for air travel, inventory of aviation facilities, airport and airspace capacity, and airport access.







